

# Governor Carney Announces Appointments to State Board of Education

**WILMINGTON, Del.** – Governor John Carney has appointed former State Teacher of the Year Wendy Turner and high school student Elise Sampson to serve on the State Board of Education. Turner was Delaware's 2017 State Teacher of the Year and Sampson is a current Smyrna High School student.

Each will be only the second person to serve in their respective roles since the General Assembly passed House Bill 455 in 2018. The legislation allowed the Governor to annually appoint to the board an 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student and former State Teacher of the Year who also is a current educator to serve as non-voting members.

*"Students and educators always deserve a seat at the table when we're making decisions about Delaware schools," said **Governor Carney**. "I appreciate the willingness of Wendy and Elise to serve in these important roles. I look forward to the great work they will do on behalf of all Delawareans."*

Turner is a second-grade teacher at Brandywine School District's Mount Pleasant Elementary School. She earned her undergraduate degree in accounting from Boston College and started her career in the business world. She returned to school at Wilmington University to earn her Master of Education and become a teacher. She earned the 2016 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching for her science instruction. In 2019, she was named a National Education Association Global Learning Fellow to South Africa. That same year she also was honored by the Governor's Office as a Compassionate Champion for her work supporting

social emotional learning.

Sampson founded the Black Student Union at Smyrna High School, where she has served as class president, student ambassador and a Student Government Association member. She was selected for the Governor's School of Excellence for 2020. She also is active in musical groups and nonprofit organizations that give her opportunities to volunteer in her community.

"We are very excited to welcome Wendy and Elise as our new board members. We learned firsthand the value of a student and current teacher in our classrooms sitting at the table with us last year. Their unique perspective is even more valuable as we face unprecedented challenges in making sure we meet the needs of all students in the current environment." **State Board of Education President Whitney Sweeney** said.

The board's regular monthly meetings are open to the public, typically scheduled for the third Thursday evening of the month. Currently meeting virtually due to COVID-19, when in-person meetings resume, they will rotate locations to be held in all three counties.

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